

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 95-1117-C - ORDER NO. 96-110 ✓

FEBRUARY 20, 1996

IN RE:	Application of Metracom Corporation for	)	ORDER
	a Certificate of Public Convenience and	)	APPROVING
	Necessity to Provide Intrastate Resold	)	CERTIFICATE
	Telecommunications Service within	)	
	the State of South Carolina.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of Metracom Corporation ("Metracom" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to operate as a reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina. The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann §58-9-280 (Supp. 1994) and the Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed Metracom to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of Metracom's Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. Metracom complied with this instruction and provided the Commission

with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing.

A hearing was commenced on January 9, 1996, at 11:00 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room. The Honorable Rudolph Mitchell, Chairman, presided. Metracom was represented by Frank R. Ellerbe, III, Esquire. Catherine D. Taylor, Staff Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Kevin R. Estes, Vice President of Operations of Metracom, appeared and offered testimony in support of Metracom's Application. Mr. Estes stated that Metracom is a Massachusetts corporation which is registered to do business in South Carolina as a foreign corporation. According to Mr. Estes Metracom proposes to offer long distance services using resold transmission services of carriers certificated to carry traffic in South Carolina. Mr. Estes explained the Company's request for authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina as a reseller. He further explained the Company's services, operations and marketing procedures.

Mr. Estes also offered that Metracom possesses the technical, financial and managerial abilities to provide its services in South Carolina. Counsel for Metracom stated that the company would make certain changes to its proposed tariff to comply with Commission guidelines and prior Orders. Mr. Estes also admitted that Metracom had completed incidental intrastate long distance calls in South Carolina and that Metracom agreed to refund the charges for these calls. The record reveals that the approximate amount of intrastate South Carolina revenues collected by Metracom is

\$4,634.00.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Metracom is incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and is licensed to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.

2. Metracom operates as a non-facilities based reseller of interexchange services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.

3. Metracom has the experience, capability, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application.

4. Prior to this date, Metracom has provided intrastate interexchange service in South Carolina to some of its customers, and the approximate total charge for these calls is \$4,634.00

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above findings of fact, the Commission determines that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to Metracom to provide intrastate interLATA service and to originate and terminate toll traffic within the same LATA, as set forth herein, through the resale of intrastate Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS), Message Telecommunications Service (MTS), Foreign Exchange Service, Private Line Service, or

any other services authorized for resale by tariffs of carriers approved by the Commission.

2. The Commission adopts a rate design for Metracom for its resale services which includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels has been previously adopted by the Commission. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc., Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

3. Metracom shall not adjust its rates below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. Metracom shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc., Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 1995).

4. Metracom shall file its revised maximum tariff and an

accompanying price list within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order and shall be consistent with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

5. Metracom is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that for access purposes resellers should be treated similarly to facilities-based interexchange carriers.

6. With regard to the Company's resale of service, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end user so desires.

7. Metracom shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission. If Metracom changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

8. With regard to the origination and termination of toll calls within the same LATA, Metracom shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 92-182-C, 92-183-C, and 92-200-C (June 3, 1993).

9. Metracom shall file surveillance reports on a calendar or fiscal year basis with the Commission as required by Order No. 88-178 in Docket No. 87-483-C. The proper form for these reports is indicated on Attachment A.

10. Metracom shall refund to its customers all charges collected by it prior to the date of this Order for intrastate South Carolina service. These refunds shall be issued within

thirty (30) days of the date of this Order and shall include interest at the rate of 12% per annum. The Company shall file with the Commission all information necessary to certify that the refunds have been made.

11. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)

ANNUAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS  
FOR INTEREXCHANGE COMPANIES AND AOS'S

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COMPANY NAME

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FEI NO.

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ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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PHONE NUMBER

- (1) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING REVENUES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) RATE BASE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS\* FOR 12  
MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* THIS WOULD INCLUDE GROSS PLANT, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION,  
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, CASH WORKING CAPITAL, CONSTRUCTION  
WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAX,  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.
- (4) PARENT'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE\* AT DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL LONG TERM DEBT (NOT THE CURRENT PORTION  
PAYABLE), PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON EQUITY.
- (5) PARENT'S EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR LONG TERM DEBT AND  
EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR PREFERRED STOCK AT YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING \_\_\_\_\_.
- (6) ALL DETAILS ON THE ALLOCATION METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE  
AMOUNT OF EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS AS  
WELL AS METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF COMPANY'S RATE BASE INVESTMENT  
(SEE #3 ABOVE).

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SIGNATURE

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NAME (PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT)

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TITLE

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